

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners,
As a citizen who wants to be informed about the political and electoral issues that affect my life, I am greatly disappointed by the lack of informative television programming.

Local public affairs programming is virtually non-existent--constituting less than one half of 1% of all local programming. More than half of news broadcasts prior to the 2002 elections did not include a single campaign story. Our democracy is at risk when many Americans don't know basic facts about the candidates or the issues, as was the case in the 2000 elections.

Since broadcasters have clearly failed in their obligation to serve the public interest, the FCC should define meaningful public interest requirements that include local civic and electoral affairs programming. At a minimum, broadcasters should air three hours per week of local civic and electoral affairs programming, with at least two hours devoted to substantive election coverage in the six weeks prior to Election Day.

As the elections approach, a well-functioning democracy demands that citizens have access to a diversity of opinions and voices on the choices confronting us.

It is clear the media does not delve into details such as the lack of funding to support the No Child Left Behind Act. About 8 years ago the congress passed a bill to give teachers credit on their student loan if they taught at disadvantaged schools for at least six years. This policy had already covered the Pell grant teachers, but the new bill was to cover those teachers who had Stafford loans. The bill passed, but the funding never came through. My daughter is still waiting for the credit on her student loan. I have sent letters and made phone calls and nobody can answer me. But I don't have the power of the media.

Sincerely,

Midge Anthony
2310 Country Pl. Dr.
Richmond, TX 774692333